



The CIVIC LEAGUE BULLETIN

COLORADO SPRINGS

APRIL, 1914

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OBJECT.

The object of the League is the investigation and improvement of municipal conditions and public affairs in the city of Colorado Springs.

POLICY.

All action of this League shall be distinctly non-partisan, and the League shall, under no circumstances, identify itself at any time, with any political party.

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EDITORIAL

BERTHA W. FOWLER.

The question of a City Manager for Colorado Springs has recently been discussed, especially in view of the success of this plan of city government in Dayton, Ohio.

It is certain that the commission form of government has the grave defect of placing inexperienced men in office for a brief term, a method of doing business which would never be tolerated in any private enterprise. It is done, of course, with the idea of ensuring public control, but as President Lowell, of Harvard, justly observes, "Filling all important posts with politicians, in national or local business, is not a means of bringing public opinion to bear on public work; it simply prevents the carrying out of any intelligent policy."

The ideal would appear to be rather the

method practiced in some European countries—of the expert or permanent officials, controlled by the electors through their representatives, whose office is temporary.

The people of Dayton, at a short ballot election, chose a commission of five, which act as a legislative body, elects the city manager and fixes his salary (\$12,500.00 a year at present). The man getting the highest vote for membership in the commission wins the title of mayor and a salary of \$1,800.00 a year, as compared with the \$1,200.00 of the other four. These commissioners had the good sense to regard the efficiency of their agent, and therefore did not confine their choice to the city of Dayton, and the city manager in turn placing efficiency foremost, when the commissioners could suggest no qualified man for one of the departments, chose one from outside. Entirely disregarding all political and personal considerations, he laid down the three requisites for tenure of office as efficiency, economy and loyalty.

The five departments under the control of the city manager of Dayton, are: *Service*—streets, waterworks, sewers, public utilities; *Safety*—police, fire department, building inspection, weights and measures; *Law*—the city counsellor; *Finance*—accounting, purchasing, treasury; and *Welfare*—charities, correction, recreation, parks, playgrounds, hospitals. There is one disability under which the Dayton city government is suffering, and that is the absence of women. In a suffrage state the principles of ordinary justice and of regard for the welfare of the community would dictate the election of women to the original commission, and that the heads of the departments of Safety and Welfare at least should be women. The business manager of Dayton placed a clergyman in charge of the department of Welfare, in the interests of humanity as distinct from business, but these interests, one cannot doubt, would have been even better and more fundamentally served by the appointment of a woman. If we should

make such a change in our charter, in the future, it will be incumbent on us to see that we do not repeat the mistake of Dayton in so limiting its progress.

In the Chamber of Commerce of Colorado Springs we welcome the appointment of two public-spirited men—Mr. Alexander Smith and Mr. Dan D. Casement, as chairmen, respectively, of the Committee on Municipal Affairs and the Sub-Committee of Investigation. The Civic League has no use for subterranean wire-pulling—nor does it care to forward any measure in which it is interested for the public welfare, by private influence of individuals. Its method is to deal straightforwardly and above board as citizens with citizens, and therefore it rejoices in the prospect of open co-operation with the Chamber of Commerce through these committees, as on the other hand with the Federated Trades Council, by means of the League's Committee on Labor, whose chairman is also a member of the Trades Council.

The League is fully aware that there are interests in this city which regard co-operation between any public bodies as inimical to their private plans, and that these will do their best to insinuate the dividing wedge wherever it is possible, but where there is a single motive working for the good of the community, such maneuvers are doomed, in the long run, to failure.

MUNICIPAL RECORDS

The Good Government Association of Boston, whose splendid work toward the purifying of political corruption in city administration, is beginning to reap a harvest in a difficult field, has found it most helpful to conscientious voters to have a record of the candidates up for office compiled with care and with absolute freedom from Party bias. In "City Affairs," the organ of the Good Government Association, this desirable assistance to the citizens is thus described:

"In January, 1914, the Association for the eleventh time mailed to every voter in Boston a careful statement of the records of candidates for municipal offices. With the removal of all party designations from the municipal ballot under the new charter, and with the consequent lessening of activity on the part of the national party organizations,

these carefully prepared reports are absolutely necessary to the average citizen not especially interested in politics, and of large value to every voter who desires either to familiarize himself or refresh his memory as to the essential facts in the lives of the various candidates.

The usual system was followed in the compilation of these records. Each candidate was invited to meet with members of the Executive and Publication Committees. His record was then investigated and tabulated in accordance with a uniform plan. Each candidate was given an opportunity to read his record before it was made public. The suggestions made by the candidates themselves were referred to the proper committees for their consideration. In every case where the candidate had previously held public office the record of his votes in the office previously held was carefully studied by the Publication Committee. The committee strove to select those votes which it believed to be important as revealing the attitude of the candidate upon the problems which he has been called upon to face. The attitude of the candidate upon each vote selected was included in his record, and the records of the candidates were followed in the pamphlet with a carefully prepared explanation of the various votes in question.

"Some years ago the Association reached the conclusion that the personal interviews which its committees and officers had with the candidates and the fact that the Association kept in constant touch with the political situation throughout the year, and maintained from year to year a ledger account with every man who has stood for municipal office since the organization of the Association, gave it a better opportunity of knowing the candidates than the average voter possesses. Consequently the Association appended to its records of facts a careful opinion upon each candidate based upon this knowledge, believing that it would be of assistance to some of the voters while it could in no way interfere with the liberty of choice which all must exercise."

NOW IS THE TIME TO KILL FLIES—EACH SPRING FLY KILLED MEANS 225,000,000 LESS TO CARRY DISEASE THIS SUMMER.

SCHOOLS AS SOCIAL CENTERS

In the struggle now going on in New York for the use of Public School buildings as social centers, some strong speeches have been made against the policy of the Board of Education. The Board had prepared a set of hampering regulations, and a scale of charges for heat, light and janitor service considered most exorbitant. The schools built by the people's money are idle 40 per cent of the time. In consequence, for lack of public gathering places, people are driven into saloons and dance halls for the political and social life which could be amply provided in the schools. Especially is it to be deplored that the Board proposes to close the buildings on the days when they are most needed—Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and through the summer vacation. The *New York Evening Post* reports Rabbi Wise:

"I am loath to say it," he declared, "but I must say that it is become the business of New York to remind its Board of Education that the schools belong to the people and not to the Board of Education, and if the Board of Education is not satisfied to serve as trustee for the people with respect to the schools in the spirit of wisdom and statesmanship and serviceableness, then it is the business of the Board of Education to make way for another group of men and women who will be more jealous in safeguarding the people's rights to the schools than to magnifying janitorial prerogatives and perquisites.

"After a careful reading of the regulations proposed for the care of buildings, one is tempted to imagine that instead of the government of the schools being of the people, by the people, and for the people, it had been decided that the schools were of the Board of Education, by the Committee on the Care of Buildings, and for the benefit of the janitors."

THE PRESERVATION OF OUR WILD FLOWERS

HELEN S. RANNEY.

The "old-timers" tell us of the days when columbines in masses waved their airy blossoms in the canons all around us, and the mariposa lily was a common sight. Why haven't we them now? And will this same

fate happen to some other favorites? It is not Nature's fault that these flowers are now so scarce but because we have not realized that our wild flowers are one of the great assets of our region, and have allowed tourists and children to pick them by the armsful, often pulling them up by the roots, and have done nothing to lead them to less greedy enjoyment.

With regret we have seen everywhere advertisements of the Wild Flower Excursion of the Colorado Midland road, and have seen photographs of the returning crowd standing by the train their arms literally full of blossoms. It has been said by members of some of the excursions that by the time the party reached the city again, the flowers were often wilted and were thrown ruthlessly away. What good did they do anybody? In justice to the railroad, be it said, that in an interview, one of their officials said that while they did not sow seed each year, that they had used the same fields for the last fifteen years and the flowers seemed to grow thicker for being picked—this was, of course, where they were not pulled up by the roots and is a happy state of affairs, but one rather unusual in the history of the growth of wild flowers! What a service the road would be rendering if they would take the tourists to these wonderful fields and teach them to enjoy their beauty without picking. With all the other attractions they offer on the trip, I am sure the tourists would be satisfied.

Our Park Commission, of whose devotion and service to the city not enough can be said, last year planted wild flowers in the Garden of the Gods, but unless we educate our children and tourists—and incidentally ourselves—their efforts may be wasted.

In Estes Park much has been done along this line of education, and what is the result? In some places mariposa lilies are as common as dandelions with us. In looking across the meadows or up on the hills, the eye is delighted by masses of blue, purple and yellow. This massing and variety of color greatly adds to the beauty of the scenery. If the tourist yields to the first childish impulse which comes and starts to pick some to possess them entirely for herself, she may run into a sign like this: "What do you want of a big bunch of flowers, anyway?" or "Pick two or three only. Leave them for others to

enjoy," or "Pick, not pull," until she begins to realize that the best way to enjoy wild flowers, which so quickly fade, is in their own setting and after having one's fill of enjoyment, to leave them for the next comer. After appreciating flowers in this way for awhile, one comes to share the sentiment of the garden lover who felt that her posies were scalped if picked, and delighted in seeing them in their natural surroundings and unhindered growth until they should live their allotted time. The poem by Mr. Enos Mills, in this number, brings out the same idea.

I believe the Park Board are planning to put up in the Garden of the Gods this summer some of these signs, awakening the careless picker to the selfishness of ending the life of a flower simply for one's own enjoyment, regardless of the pleasure of which they are depriving the next passerby. All success to the Park Board in their aim to make our great garden a real garden and let us lend our help by (1) never pulling up by the roots, (2) by never picking a flower if it is the only one around and (3) preferably by picking very few or better none at all.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

(Hung in Enos Mills' Studio, Long's Peak Inn.)

What will you with our bodies,
Rude Ravisher of flowers,
Despoiler of our loveliness
To please your idle hours?

The life you pluck so gaily
Will perish in a day;
The form you praise so lightly
Turn swiftly to decay.

But leave us on our hillside
With wind and bird and bees,
Ensure us our inheritance
Of immortality!

Your sons shall know our fragrance,
Your daughters feel our charm:
O Friend of future ages,
Do not the wild flowers harm.

(Signed) *Columbine, Gentian and others.*

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS—A NEW PROFESSION

FANNY S. PEABODY.

A recent magazine contains an article entitled "The New Profession of Public Health," in which it is claimed that the greatest civilizing force of the present day comes from the application of medical science to modern life and conditions.

As an example the admirable work done in the Canal Zone is quoted, where a region most unfavorable to health has now been rendered safe.

In this case, and in Cuba and Porto Rico as well, unlimited power was given by the government to Sanitarians, and the results of their work are an object lesson to the world.

It is conceded that ill health and preventable disease are the prime factors in undermining and sapping the strength of the State. Having seen what has been accomplished in semi-tropical countries, our people are rousing to the comparative neglect of such matters at home. Because natural conditions have been fairly favorable to health, not enough attention has been given to combating disease and preventing it. Expert Sanitarians are hard to find, but now that the demand has arisen steps are being taken to provide the supply.

Last autumn Harvard College and the Boston Institute of Technology united in establishing an educational department to train men for the profession of Public Health Officers.

The expert Health Officer must have not only knowledge of bacteriology and modern medical science, but also must know something of engineering, the building of sewers, incineration plants, reservoirs, etc. Everything points to efficiency and special training in public service nowadays. There is a widespread demand for it in all departments.

In New York state, last year, the Legislature had an excellent bill under consideration for reorganizing the State Board of Health. This proposed law divided the state into twenty sanitary districts, with a sanitary supervisor in charge of each. The bill provided that all these supervisors should be experts, especially trained for the work. It was then found that such experts did not exist! So that provision of the law had to be changed to physicians as supervisors.

This condition of things set people to think-

ing, and a new educational department for training men as Health Officers has resulted, in which a College and Scientific school join hands.

Graduates of this new profession will receive the degree of C. P. H. Certificate of Public Health.

It is safe to predict that this new profession will not only appeal to young men in itself, but will be one that will promise a good position from the start and command a good salary. A Public Health Officer should give his entire time to the work, and when trained and fitted for it should receive ample remuneration, for there is no office more important to the well-being of a community.

NOW IS THE TIME TO CLEAN OUT ALL POSSIBLE BREEDING PLACES OF FLIES. PLAN YOUR CAMPAIGN AND "FIGHT IT OUT ON THIS LINE IF IT TAKES ALL SUMMER."

POSTER AGAINST ALCOHOLISM

The Mayor and Park Commissioners of Cambridge, Mass., have had the following poster placed in all parks and public places.

ALCOHOL

THE PUBLIC THINKS it is only heavy drinking that harms.

EXPERIMENTS SHOW that even moderate drinking hurts health, lessens efficiency.

THE PUBLIC THINKS alcohol braces us for hard work and against fatigue.

EXPERIMENTS SHOW that alcohol in no way increases muscular strength or endurance.

Alcohol lowers vitality; alcohol opens the door to disease.

Resolved, at the International Congress on Tuberculosis to combine the fight against alcohol with the struggle against tuberculosis.

At the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, the use of alcohol as a medicine declined 77 per cent in eight years. Most modern hospitals show the same tendency. Alcohol is responsible for much of our Insanity, much of our Poverty, much of our Crime. Our Prison Commissioners reported that 95 per cent of those who went to prison in 1911 had intemperate habits—

YET THE PUBLIC SAYS—we need the revenue from liquor.

THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW how

small is the Revenue compared with the cost of carrying the Wreckage.

Your money supports this wreckage.

Your will allows it. Your indifference endangers your nation. Commercialized vice is promoted through alcohol.

CITIZENS, THINK! Arrayed against alcohol are Economic Science, Efficiency, Health, Morality—

The very Assets of a Nation. The very Soul of a People.

THINK!

RECREATION IN COLORADO SPRINGS

HESTER DONALDSON JENKINS.

After a year's study into the recreation problem of Colorado Springs, the Amusement and Playground Committee sees the situation as follows:

The assets of Colorado Springs, as our study has revealed them, are: a city with unusual opportunities for beautiful expeditions and nature study; an attractive park system; several school buildings excellently adapted to recreation purposes; a large number of church, club and Christian association activities offering social opportunities to our citizens, and a corps of teachers and public-spirited citizens who are glad to help in a movement towards healthful recreation. In addition to freely given amusements, there are a number of well-managed commercial show houses and one carefully run public dance hall.

The needs of the city we might classify thus:

(1) The supervision of existing commercial recreation with a view to maintaining high moral standards, (2) the policing of all public amusements and parks that might be used to lower the morality of the city, and (3) the organization of positively moral and social recreation.

Supervision of the motion-picture and vaudeville shows of the city is not an easy problem, for the managers are themselves at the mercy of the film companies as to the films that they show, and at the mercy of the public in its demands for the shutting out of fresh air. Although a considerable proportion of the films shown are decent and unobjectionable, there are a large number that are wholly unfit for children to see and too vulgar to be desirable even for adults, while

most of the vaudeville entertainments are degrading. To bring about a change for the better, the following suggestions are offered: (1) The drawing up of a practical and helpful ordinance controlling all show houses, the Folks Ordinance being suggested as the best model (for text and comment see *The Playground* for March, 1914), (2) the presence of inspectors as often as may be who shall report immoral films or vaudeville numbers, and who shall have police authority to prevent their continued presentation, such inspection would be well placed in the hands of a police-woman; (3) the support by good citizens of the best shows, their insistence on good air and light, and the reprobation of the lower class of performances expressed publicly and to the manager. The matter of sufficient light is easily arranged where patrons insist on it. The screen and the eyes of the audience should be protected from all direct rays of light by inverting the electric bulbs, placing reflectors beneath them and throwing the light upward onto a white or light green surface, thus diffusing the light throughout the auditorium. The experiment of running a really high-grade show by the municipality or by a group of public-spirited citizens would be an interesting one. Such an experiment as has been carried on by Mr. B. F. Keith of Boston with pronounced success, both financial and artistic. If it were feasible to run such a show largely in the interests of the children, it would be well, for the usual cheap show is not sufficiently clean and uplifting to offer frequently to impressionable childhood.

Our public dance halls show a marked improvement over last year, but we feel that constant supervision is desirable, and here again we should like to see a police-woman, and we feel that dancing conducted under other than purely commercial auspices in suitable social centers would be a wise experiment. To us it seems as though from the standpoint of economy, convenience and suitability, the schools would be the best social centers, and we should like to see the new High School building thrown open for neighborhood entertainments and sociability, such as have been successful in Chicago, Cleveland and other cities. A pamphlet by C. A. Perry, "How to Start Social Centers," would direct us should we wish to initiate such a movement.

Our beautiful parks need supervision by

both regular policemen and a police-woman. The playground movement is well started, but must be continued and extended, and eventually carried through the year, when the play director might be converted into a "Dean of Sports," and prove useful to the entire community. To take advantage of our marvellous mountains and canons, such a club as the Appalachian Mountain Club of New England or the Rocky Mountain Tramping Club of Denver might be organized, and for the benefit of poor people wishing to reach the mountains, we would urge the reduction of the car fare to 5 cents to Stratton Park or Manitou.

Whereas in this recreation work we realize that the greatest emphasis must be put on the proper amusement for adolescent and youthful citizens, we must never lose sight of the needs of tired fathers and mothers, nor of lonely single men and women, for social meetings with educational and amusing features. A social center in the High School would consider the needs of this class, and in providing for them would furnish the best chaperonage for the youth in the building—their own parents and adult friends—and would stimulate that neighborhood cordiality which is so greatly to be desired.

Suppression of evil by careful ordinance and by constant supervision, and the building up of a social life in which dancing and tramping and playing shall have a part, and in which the neighborly intercourse of old and young shall safeguard youth from its special temptations, are the two ideals which the Committee on Amusements and Playgrounds holds before the Civic League.

ACCOMPLISHED WORK

(From "The Chronicle.")

Much is heard all the time of what this or that organization desires to do or plans to accomplish. Less is heard of actual concrete achievement. It is therefore a pleasure to report the record of the work of the National Child Labor Committee since its organization. In the nine years of the existence of the committee, and largely as a result of its efforts, the

"American people have forbidden child labor under fourteen years, or extended the industries prohibited under fourteen, in Arizona,

Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Porto Rico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia. And to fifteen years for manufacture in California and Ohio (sixteen for girls).

Have saved children under sixteen from night work in Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Porto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont.

Have saved children under sixteen from employment in coal mines in Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Montana, New York, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma and Washington. In Texas, under seventeen years.

Have established the eight-hour day under sixteen in Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Washington and Wisconsin. In Porto Rico, six-hour day under sixteen.

Have protected youth under twenty-one from ruinous night messenger service in Arizona, Massachusetts, New Jersey (eighteen outside first-class cities), New York, Rhode Island, Utah and Wisconsin.

Have passed the eighteen-year age limit for night messenger service in California, Connecticut, Delaware (cities over 20,000), Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Seven states have passed their first child labor law, and eleven states their first compulsory education law.

New York and Massachusetts have prohibited manufacture in tenements by children under fourteen.

Medical examination of factory children has been required in two states.

Eight states have passed legislation granting state aid for vocational schools.

The American Bar Association has endorsed our Uniform Child Labor Law.

The Children's bureau was established as a

department of the federal government through a bill introduced and a campaign led by the National Child Labor Committee."

FREE DENTAL CLINIC IN THE SCHOOLS

The Dental Association of Colorado Springs has offered its services for a year, to establish a Dental Clinic in the public schools. The Board of Education has agreed to permit the use of a room in one of the schools for this purpose.

The Visiting Nurse Association has offered to have one of its nurses in attendance on clinic days to assist the dentists.

Eight hundred dollars is needed for equipment. Contributions for this purpose, whether the amount be large or small, are asked from everyone, and will be of great assistance.

"We know the paths wherein our feet should
press,
Across our hearts are written Thy decrees.
Yet now, O Lord, be merciful to bless
With more than these.

Grant us the will to fashion as we feel,
Grant us the strength to labor as we know,
Grant us the purpose, ribbed and edged with
steel,
To strike the blow.

Knowledge we ask not—knowledge Thou hast
lent,
But, Lord, the will—there lies our bitter need,
Give us to build above the deep intent
The deed, the deed!"

NOTES

A copy of Christabel Pankhurst's book, "Plain Facts About a Great Evil," is in the Public Library. This book well deserves the attention of all thoughtful people.

Omaha brewers are making great efforts to spread the tenets of the organizations opposed to woman's suffrage. Perhaps they feel that women might object to the campaign some brewers are making to insure their future by distributing free beer tickets to boys, and so create the taste it is greatly to their profit to satisfy.

PICNICKING.

In our climate and surroundings where picnics are possible most of the year, it would seem as if everyone would have reduced picnicking to a fine art—and in many ways it has been. Who ever had such delightful tramps or good things to eat on a picnic anywhere else! And yet there is one fine point of ethics or etiquette which we have often seen not observed, and that is to leave the place one has enjoyed just as attractive for the next comer. How many times we have been disappointed on coming to a favorite spot to find it littered up with lunch boxes, orange peel, egg-shells and the like. It is only a matter of a few minutes to pick up everything after a lunch and, tying it up, either burn it or hide it under a rock or bush, or dispose of it in some way so that it does not offend the eye. Will the teachers and parents bring this simple duty before the children this spring?

In 1913 Massachusetts made it mandatory for towns of over 10,000 inhabitants to have City Planning Boards. This is a step in a good direction, for at present large cities, where the mistakes of the past are written large, are the ones who interest themselves in city planning; the small cities, which are better able to profit by a well thought-out plan for the future, are content to grow "just any way," and so reproduce the wasteful and ugly development of the past. We ought to analyze the basis of the community's prosperity with a view to shaping the city plan toward the enhancement of its natural opportunities.

Denver is having a heated time over the billboard nuisance. We hear that the disgruntled poster makers are expecting to line both sides of Colorado avenue with their garish advertisements. We should co-operate with the public-spirited citizens of Colorado City to stop this.

Names for membership in the Civic League should be proposed to Mrs. M. D. Ormes, the chairman of that Committee, or to any one of the following women: Mrs. E. T. Ensign, Mrs. E. C. Woodward, Mrs. A. G. Brigham, Mrs. A. G. Hodgetts, Mrs. H. G. Lunt or Mrs. E. D. Barker.

The annual luncheon of the Civic League

was held March 21st at the Y. W. C. A. and was well attended, seventy being present. Large, double daffodils, the gift of Miss Brinley and the governing board of the Y. W., centered the principal table at which sat Mrs. Fowler, Miss Brinley, Mrs. Curtis, Dr. Spencer and the four speakers. The remaining members with their guests were seated at small tables which also were decorated with cheerful yellow daffodils. The simple though excellent menu was followed by a telling and appropriate speech by the president, setting forth the purposes and ambitions of the League, as well as its accomplishments. The following toasts were proposed, and brilliantly responded to as follows: "Our New Members," Dr. Noble; "Pillars and Flying Butresses," read by Miss Torrance; "Colorado, Past and Present," Dr. Jenkins; "Our Ideals," Mrs. Worcester. The lunch was arranged for by the Membership Committee.

Enthusiasm is faith in action. "Faith believeth all things." Enthusiasm puts that belief to the test. The enthusiast believes that the thing can be done; he has faith to believe that it ought to be done; he has enthusiasm to do it. To the unthinking, enthusiasm is but the foam on the deeply stirred waters. In truth, it is the striving of the waters themselves. It is the very life of effort.

If I live my politics into the rhetoric of prayer, I cannot cast a partisan vote.—*Jowett*.

It is not often possible to see the end from the beginning, but that is no reason for not making a beginning. Few great businesses ever took the exact shape their creators pictured for them at the start. Usually they are bigger and better and broader than their creators pictured, because vision usually broadens with the power to achieve.

Do not be influenced by proverbs or old saws. There is one to justify every weakness. They are like the old-fashioned candle extinguisher; you can very tidily and decently put out a candle with one, but you can't light it.